

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 10633 100921Z

13

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1942

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CH, HK

SUBJ: HONG KONG REACTION TO MAO DEATH

1. HONG KONG'S REACTION TO THE SEPTEMBER 9 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG HAS BEEN PRETTY MUCH BUSINESS AS USUAL. A CHECK WITH LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES INDICATES NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES RELATING TO MAO'S DEATH, AND AS YET THERE ARE FEW SIGNS OF ANY SPONTANEOUS EMOTION.

2. THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, IMMEDIATELY ISSUED A PUBLIC STATEMENT EXPRESSING HIS SYMPATHY FOR THE GRIEF OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER PUBLIC FIGURES HAVE MADE STATEMENTS. IN RESPONSE TO A LOCAL TELEVISION REQUEST, THE CONSUL GENERAL MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN ENGLISH AND MANDARIN: "AS PRESIDENT FORD STATED LAST NIGHT, CHAIRMAN MAO WAS A GIANT FIGURE IN HISTORY, WHOSE ACTIONS HAVE HAD AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON CHINA AND THE WORLD BEYOND. CHAIRMAN MAO'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WAS A VITAL FACTOR IN THIS PROCESS. BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE

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PAGE 02 HONG K 10633 100921Z

SECRETARY OF STATE HAVE VOICED THEIR CONFIDENCE THAT THIS MOVE-

MENT TOWARD A MORE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WHICH CHAIRMAN MAO HELPED TO CREATE WILL CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD PEACE AND STABILITY."

3. AS IN THE CASE OF PREVIOUS LEADERSHIP DEATHS, THE CONGEN HAS LOWERED ITS FLAG TO HALF MAST FOLLOWING THE PRACTICE OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. THE CONSUL GENERAL HAS SENT LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE TO NCNA DIRECTOR LIANG WEI-LIN AS WELL AS TA KUNG PAO PUBLISHER AND NPC MEMBER FEI I-MIN. NCNA ANNOUNCED THAT A MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT THE BANK OF CHINA TO WHICH FOREIGN MISSIONS WILL BE INVITED, AND THE CONSUL GENERAL, ACCOMPANIED BY FIVE STAFF MEMBERS WILL ATTEND AND SIGN THE CONDOLENCE BOOK. SINCE MOST OF THE MISSIONS IN HONG KONG WILL ALSO SEND WREATHS, WE PLAN TO DO SO AS WELL.

4. DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR SEVENTH FLEET SHIP VISIT HAS BEEN CHANGED TO AVOID SEVENTH FLEET PRESENCE IN HONG KONG DURING PERIOD OF OFFICIAL MOURNING.
CROSS

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